

Home Visiting Task Force – Sustainability Workgroup Meeting

November 14th, 2013

Children's Home + Aid: 125 South Wacker, 14th Floor

Meeting Participants: Juanona Brewster, Nancie Brown, Dan Harris, Liz Heneks, Teresa Kelly (co-chair), Bahakia Madison, Andrea Palmer, Chelsea Pearsall, Anna Potere, Nancy Radner, Nancy Shier, Penny Smith, Joanna Su, Liliana Velazquez, Jay Young

Minutes

I. **August Meeting Minutes:**

- a. The August meeting minutes were passed with no changes.
- b. One of the follow-up items from the minutes was for Penny Smith to check on what screening tools were being used in ISBE-funded PI programs. Penny said that, according to the e-grants, 146 programs are using the ASQ, and most of them are also using the ASQ-SE. Other tools being used on a less frequent basis include the Dial, the Brigance, and the Denver tool. Dan Harris said he could find out what screening tools are used in DHS programs.

II. **1115 Waiver Update**

- a. Illinois is applying to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) for an 1115 Medicaid waiver. This "*Path to Transformation*" waiver will include all spending in the Illinois Medicaid Program and will cover all populations who are currently eligible for Medicaid and who may become eligible after ACA implementation. The waiver intends to demonstrate that by spending Medicaid dollars differently, we will have better health outcomes for our Medicaid clients at or below the same costs. The goal of the waiver is cost-neutrality, not cost-savings.
- b. The State has convened a group of stakeholders to provide direction on what the waiver will be used for, spearheaded by Michael Gelder from the Governor's Office. This group issued a concept paper on what the waiver might be used for, and held a meeting on November 14th to kick off a comment period on the concept paper.
- c. The Home Visiting Task Force and the Ounce of Prevention Fund will submit comments encouraging the State to include home visiting on the list of services under the waiver, which are due November 25th.
- d. The concept paper that was issued at the beginning of the November included a list of agencies (DHS, ISBE, etc.) and programs that could be funded under the waiver. Dan Harris said that at DHS, a consultant has been hired from HMA to work on this for HFS and they had a meeting with representatives from DHS, including Dan, to discuss what programs could be included. They have already discussed home visiting programs among others. Penny Smith said that she would talk to the ISBE representative from the Children's Mental Health Partnership to learn more about how the ISBE list was generated.
- e. Next Steps:
 - i. Anna and Teresa will share the data collected from home visiting agencies on funding amounts and children served.
 - ii. Nancy Shier will connect with Julie Hamos to set up a meeting.

III. **State and Federal Updates**

- a. State Budget:
 - i. The temporary income tax increase expires in January 2015.

- ii. The expiration of the tax increase means the state will lose \$2.3B in revenue. If the legislature doesn't act to raise revenue (whether through a continuation of the temporary tax increase or some other mechanism), then they would have to cut spending.
 - iii. Governor Quinn will have to present a budget that reflects the loss of revenue in the new year.
 - iv. There are upcoming hearings on individual state agency budgets, including a joint early childhood budget hearing in December.
- b. Federal Updates
 - i. Federal Budget:
 - 1. As you all know, the federal government could not come to an agreement on the FY14 budget before the start of the fiscal year, so the government shut down temporarily in October. The shutdown ended when the government passed a continuing resolution to fund the government through January 15, 2014, at current funding levels. The sequester will stay in place.
 - 2. The House and Senate have appointed conferees to negotiate a budget agreement by Friday, December 13. The conferees began their meetings on October 30th. There are currently two sign-on letters being circulated from Illinois to the conference committee: one from business leaders, and the other from members of the General Assembly.
 - 3. Also, the federal debt limit will be raised through February 7, 2014, avoiding a default.
 - ii. Strong Start for America's Children Act: Congress recently introduced the Strong Start for America's Children Act. This bi-partisan proposal closely mirrors the President's Preschool for All proposal and could provide up to \$27B to strengthen and expand early learning programs that enhance school readiness, alleviate achievement gaps, and ultimately bolster our economy.
 - iii. MIECHV Reauthorization Efforts:
 - 1. MIECHV expires September 30th, 2014. While we have two years to spend down any remaining funds, it is important to think about reauthorization efforts to continue MIECHV.
 - 2. There is a stakeholder group being convened by Pew to work on reauthorization of MIECHV – this group includes national advocacy groups like ZERO TO THREE, CLASP, etc. as well as representatives from the national evidence-based home visiting models. Anna is also going to participate in this group, with the intent being to stay up to date on their efforts and mobilize the HVTF as it is helpful in supporting their efforts.
 - 3. In terms of reauthorization, they think it is a long shot to get reauthorized this year – she said the sentiment of some committee staffers has been that MIECHV has one more year of funding, so it isn't urgent. The stakeholder group is very focused on education efforts with legislators to lay the groundwork for a reauthorization in the FFY15 budget. Of course, if an opportunity comes up, they will go for reauthorization this year. The details of the reauthorization (how many years, the vehicle) have been discussed but not finalized because those details will depend on the champion they can find and what else is moving at the time.
 - iv. SNAP: Finally, it is important to note that on November 1st, the increase in SNAP benefits that was authorized through the 2009 American Recovery Act ended. The cut will be substantial and will impact millions of children and families. House and Senate members

who are now beginning to negotiate a final Farm Bill should keep this benefit cut in mind as they consider reauthorizing the SNAP program.

IV. Brainstorm Broader Sustainability Efforts

- a. We could approach insurance companies to help them understand longer term health outcomes as an education strategy, e.g. State Farm, Bloomington. We should do some more work to identify who has contacts and could reach out to them about this.

V. Next Meeting

- a. Our next meeting is December 19th at 10am. Suggested agenda items include:
 - i. Update on the 1115 Medicaid waiver;
 - ii. Update on the state and federal budgets;
 - iii. Blending and braiding, and how we can have a quality program serving as many children as possible;
 - iv. Discuss private and corporate foundations and opportunities with them, e.g. the Chicago Community Trust, etc.;
 - v. Talk more about what data we have and what data we still need.
- b. We will be scheduling the 2014 meetings shortly.